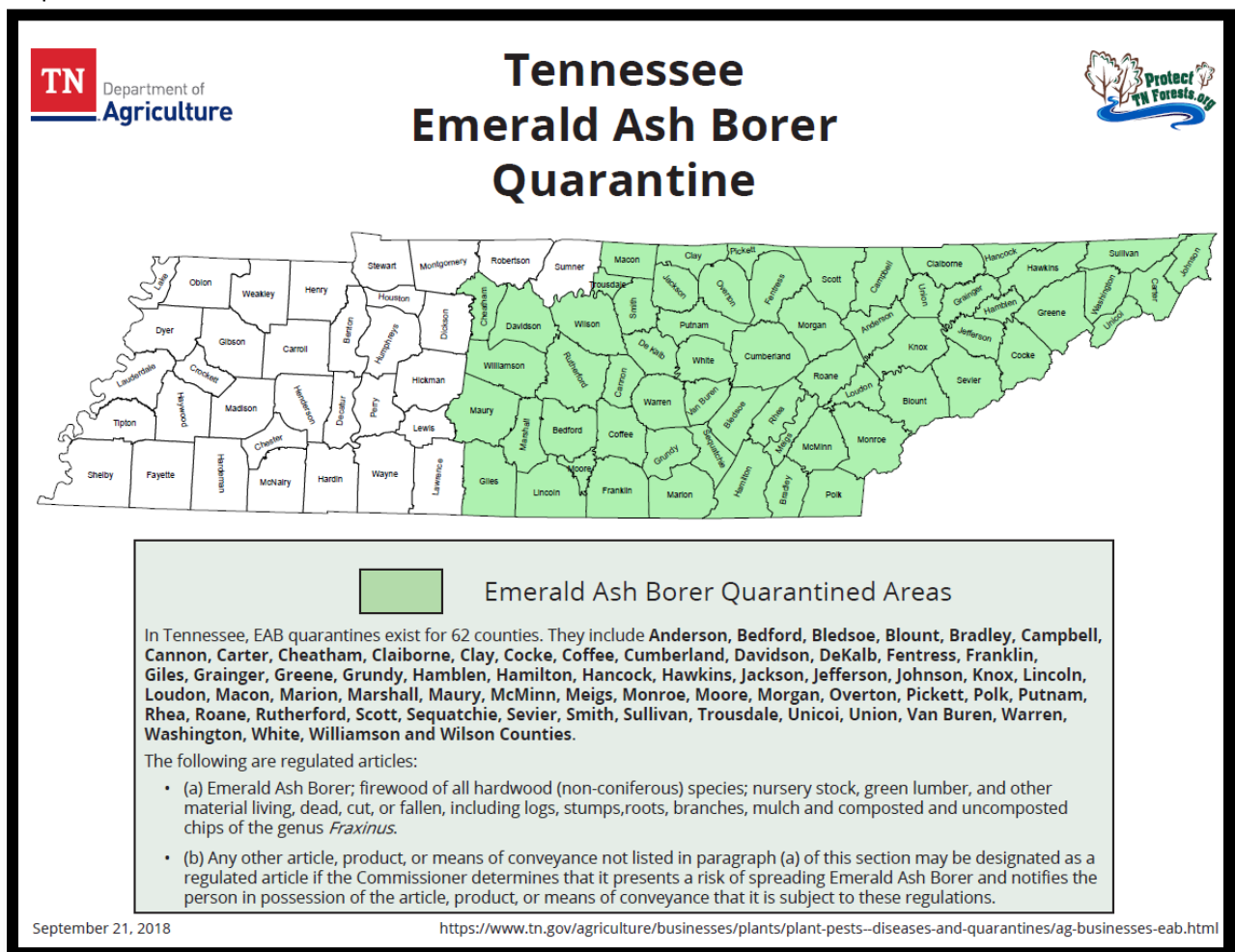


# Tennessee

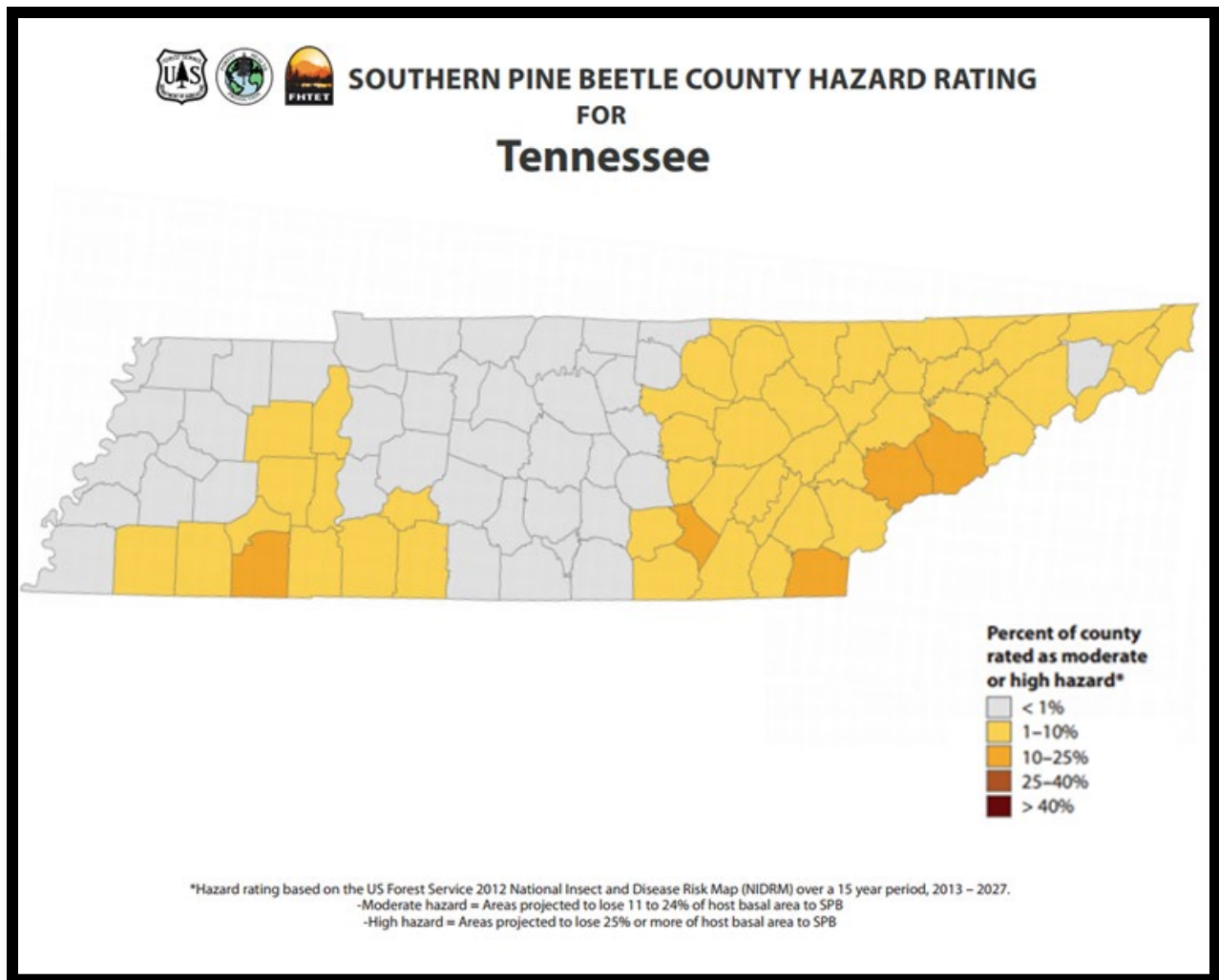
## Forest Health Highlights

### 2019

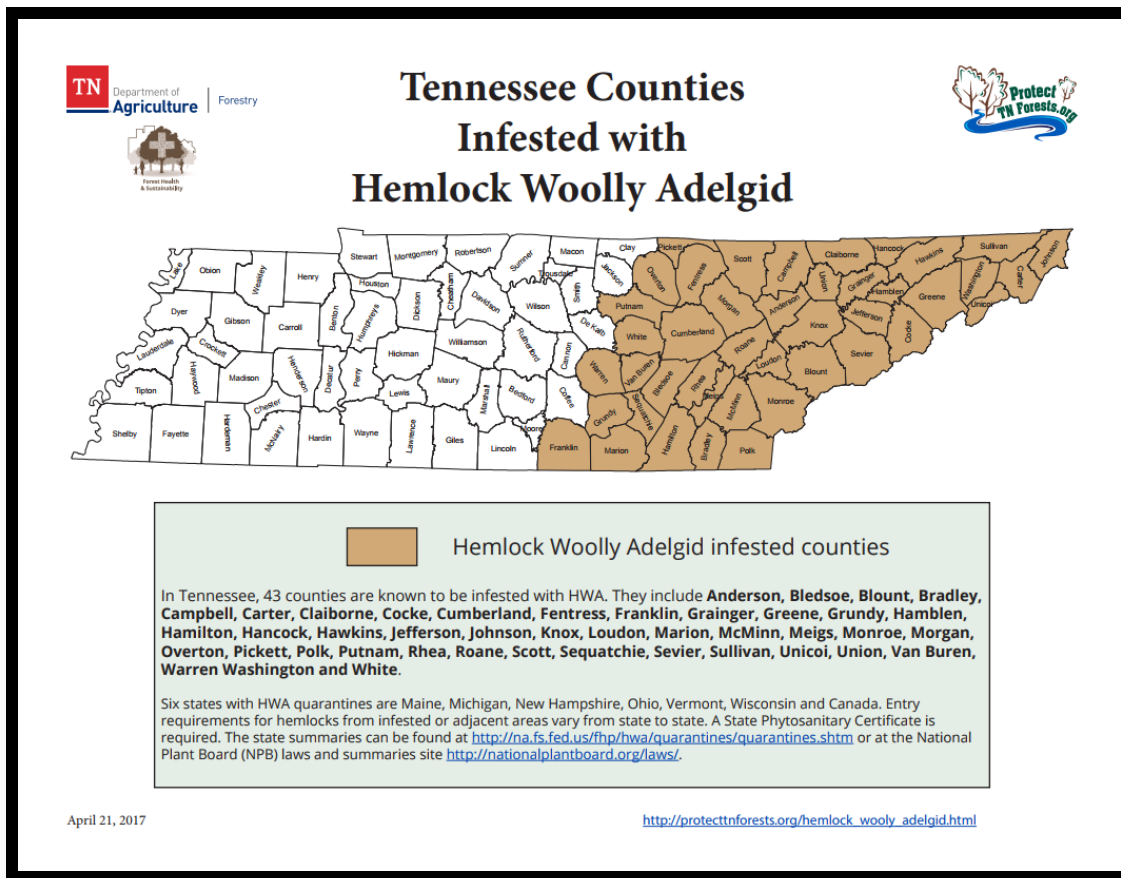
**Emerald ash borer:** USDA provided TDA (Plant Certification) 40 Emerald Ash Borer traps, which were placed in 20 counties. Ten new county records were confirmed, however, all counties were already in the quarantined area.



**Southern pine beetle & other bark beetles:** SPB populations were reported sporadically and no major outbreaks have been detected.



Hemlock woolly adelgid: TDF was awarded a USFS grant to continue a hemlock woolly adelgid strike team in 2019. This team's goals are to chemically treat HWA on public lands, provide support to the HWA predator beetle program, and facilitate events sponsored by the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership. This grant was awarded in cooperation with the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Forest Health Unit to treat and manage HWA on a regional scale. In 2018/2019, the crew treated 1,643 acres and 17,153 trees in 18 HCAs. Property ownership included state parks, state natural areas, state forests and conservation easements. Geographic range was across the native range of eastern hemlock in Tennessee.



## HWA Story Map

Protect Tennessee Forests

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**  
*A Tennessee Perspective*

Native to Asia, the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), or HWA, is a small, aphid-like insect that threatens the health and sustainability of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) in the Eastern United States. HWA is the single greatest threat to hemlock health and sustainability in the eastern U.S. The potential ecological impacts of this exotic pest are comparable to that of Dutch elm disease and chestnut blight. HWA was first reported in the U.S. in 1951 near Richmond, Virginia, and has since spread to 17 states, from Maine to Georgia.

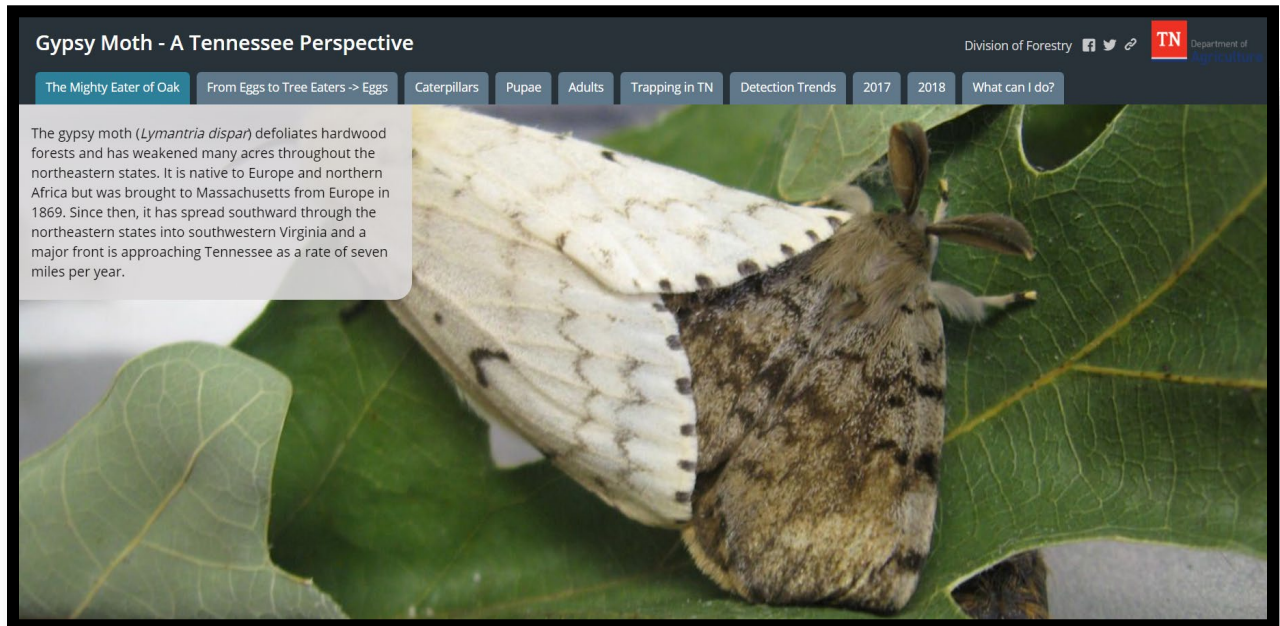
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Eastern U.S.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Three Women ... an Entire State

**Gypsy Moth:** TDA, USFS, and (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) ORNL installed 6,740 gypsy moth traps statewide this year. 181 gypsy moths were captured. A mating disruption treatment is planned on two block, totally just under 9,000 acres in Johnson County. Each location where a

moth was captured will be intensively trapped in 2020 to ensure no breeding populations are present.

[Gypsy moth trapping story map](#)

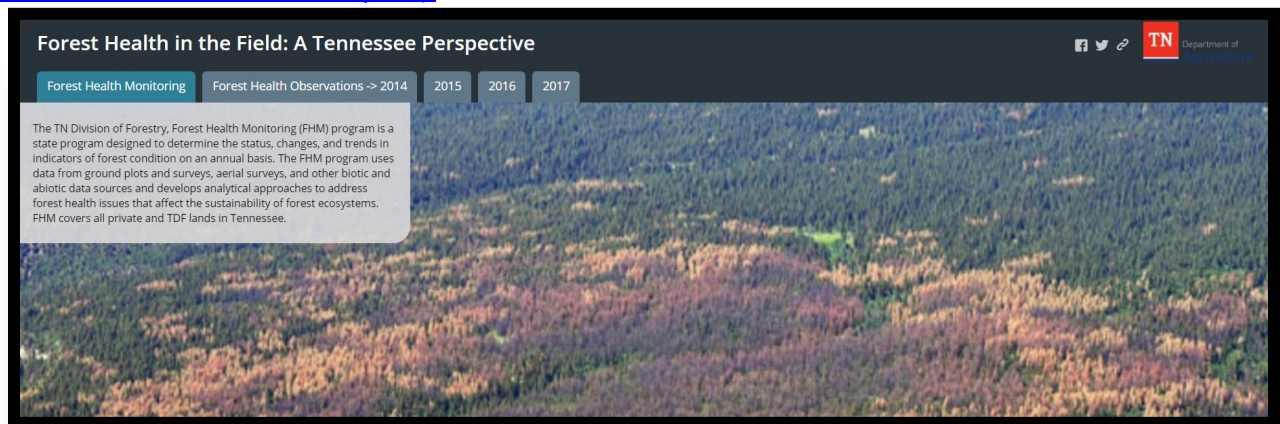




Forest Fires: 2018 fire season had the lowest number fires on record, at 351 fires, averaging under 11 acres in size.

Forest Health Observations: Due to a spring drought, foliar issues were prevalent this year. However impacts were minor and moderately vigorous trees will recover.

### [Forest Health Occurrences Story Map](#)



### Forest Health Trends:

- TDF received a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to expand prescribed fire implementation throughout the state with a prescribed fire “strike team”, modelled after the successful HWA strike team.
- Forest health spatial data were reported and entered into a comprehensive forest health database. Data included monthly forest health incident reports from field personnel totaling 751 reports.
- TDF spent significant time and resources understanding the extent of the damage of laurel wilt disease. As of November, 2019, this new disease in Tennessee was confirmed in Dickson, Cheatham, Montgomery, Williamson, Robertson, and Hamblen Counties. Staff then partook in a cross-state field tour with Forest Service scientists from North Carolina in Kentucky and Tennessee. After this field tour, TDF Area Foresters conducted surveys for the disease in 46 counties.

### Outreach & Education:

- 851 Management plans (includes plans, revisions, recognitions, and prescriptions) were written by Area Foresters on a total of 61,289 acres. Of these plans, 755 had a health component.
- Forest health staff made or organized presentations to several audiences including one 4-H group, 4 internal district training sessions, and one Foresters Academy. Dozens of internal queries about forest health issues were made to the forest health specialist, and were answered by phone, email, or site visits.

- Forest health staff attended the Annual HWA Manager's Meeting, National Firewood Workshop, Tennessee Forestry Association Annual Meeting, and attended several webinars. Several training sessions were conducted statewide by various personnel throughout the year. Topics ranged from invasive pests that are on the radar; invasive pests that are currently impacting TN forests; recent weather events with forest health implications; and new technologies available to monitor the forests more efficiently.
- Forest health staff attended the National Firewood Workshop in New England to prepare for the National Firewood Workshop to take place in Lebanon, TN in the summer of 2020. TDF, in coordination with State Parks, has coordinated a more accessible list of firewood producers for State Parks staff to look for as vendors. TDF staff will be reaching out to firewood producers to ensure they are registered as state vendors. The purpose is to increase markets for low grade forest products to increase forest health, and to ensure a fair and reliable source of treated firewood for State Parks. TDF is also preparing wallet-sized cards with information about the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign and the "Firewood Scout" website to be distributed by State Parks and Army Corps of Engineers Campground staff. TDF has updated our membership with the Firewood Scout website administrators.

**Tennessee Department of Agriculture**  
**Division of Forestry**  
**Sam Gildiner**  
**Forest Health Specialist**  
**PO Box 40627**  
**Nashville, TN 37204-0627**  
**(615) 837-5439**  
**[Sam.Gildiner@tn.gov](mailto:Sam.Gildiner@tn.gov)**